

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are present in this application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 8 is allowable.

§Rejection under 35 USC 102(b) – Deiotte

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,791,623 (Deiotte). Applicant traverses this rejection.

In the last Amendment filed November 13, 2007, the applicant had presented an argument that Igarashi (U.S. Patent 6,122,646) does not teach the step of “recording complete contents of files” within the pre-defined area. Claim 1 is directed to a disk medium managing method and recites a preceding step of “pre-defining an area on the disk medium as a directory.”

In particular, the applicant had argued that Igarashi’s Fig. 8 shows that a directory record stores information related to a file, such as the number of blocks, ID, size, and date, but that the directory record does not store complete contents of files.

The applicant submits that Deiotte suffers from the same deficiencies as in the previously cited Igarashi reference.

With regard to Deiotte, the Examiner alleges that region 62A (Fig. 3) constitutes the claimed “area” predefined as a directory. The Examiner alleges that a boot record 85 maintains the claimed “area location information.” The Examiner refers to Fig. 5 and col. 9, lines 41-65, for teaching the claimed step of recording complete contents of files and directories within the area defined as the directory.

Deiotte’s region 62A is disclosed as being a “directory data region” where directory data is stored. Fig. 5 shows a typical “directory data region.” According to Deiotte, a “directory data

region" 62A is formed by sixty-six reserved sectors 52; a first sector is written with a boot record 85. For each group of one or more files of information data subsequently written to information data region 60A, a file management system causes an associated subdirectory record 86A-86C and a root record 88A-88C to be written to directory region 62A. Each subdirectory record 86A-86C is a current record of the location within information data regions 60A-60C of all files 82A-82E which are elements of the subdirectory. The procedure is repeated for each new or updated group of one or more files of information data written to information regions 60A until directory data region 62A is nearly filled. (see col. 8, lines 24-46).

Thus, Deiotte discloses directory data regions, e.g., 62A, 62B, 62C where directory records are stored, and separate information data regions, e.g. 60A, 60B, 60C where files are stored (see Fig. 3, reproduced below). Applicant submits that similar to the case of Igarashi, Deiotte also does not disclose recording of complete contents of files in a pre-defined directory data region.

U.S. Patent Dec. 13, 1988 Sheet 2 of 4 4,791,623

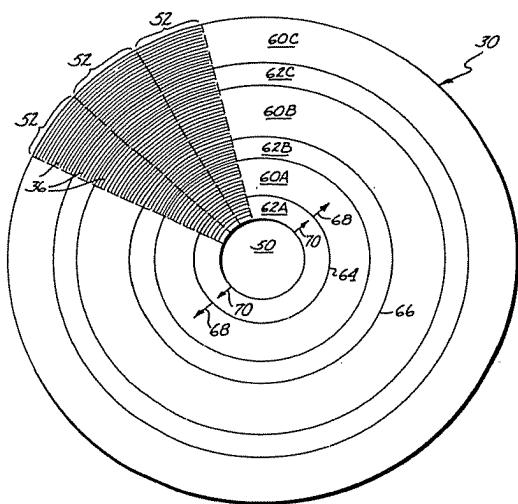


Fig.3

FIG.6

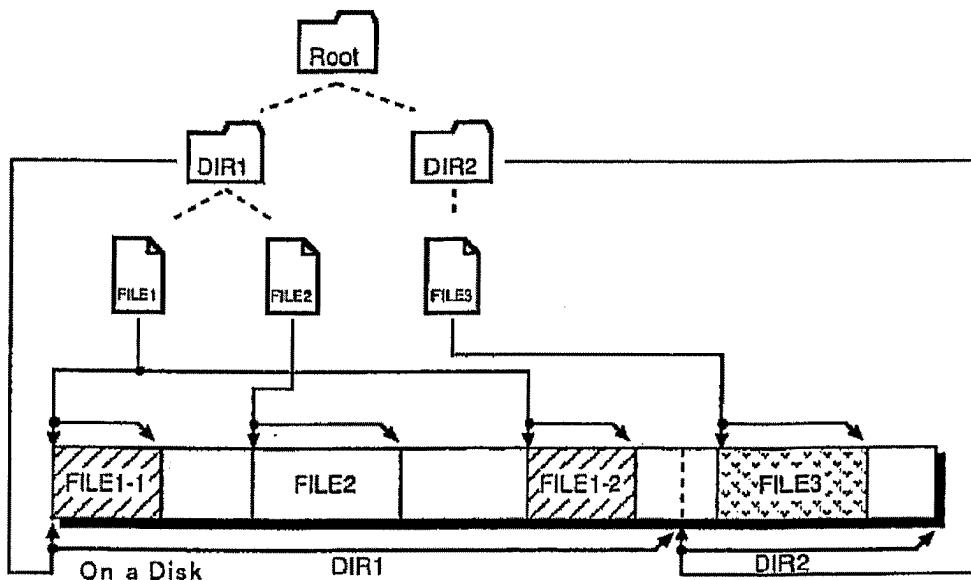


Fig. 6 of the present application (reproduced above) shows an example of complete file contents for files 1 and 2 being recorded in DIR 1 pre-defined as a directory. The applicant submits that Deiotte's directory data region 62A, for example, does not constitute an area defined as a directory for recording complete contents of files. Rather, file contents are stored in separate information data regions, e.g. 60A.

Therefore, the applicant submits that Deiotte fails to teach or suggest the claimed steps of "pre-defining an area on the disk medium as a directory," and "recording complete contents of files and directories within the area defined as the directory."

In addition, Deiotte discloses that the primary function of the boot record is to identify the location occupied by just the first directory data region (col. 8, lines 47-49).

Furthermore, Deiotte discloses that directory data regions are of fixed size, while information data regions where files are recorded are allowed to grow until a directory data region has been filled with directory information. In particular, Deiotte discloses that, “information data region 60A is allowed to grow to any required size until the directory data associated therewith fills directory data region 62A.” (col. 7, lines 13-22).

In other words, the information data region of Deiotte is not of a predetermined size. Deiotte discloses that its method of storage is a particular advantage for write once and read mostly optical disks (col. 12, lines 54-57).

Thus, Deiotte discloses recording of files in an extendable information data region rather than a directory data region of predetermined size.

Still further, the applicant submits that the “directory data region” of Deiotte does not constitute an area defined as a “directory.” For example, a subdirectory record (which is the subject of col. 9, lines 41-65) is not pre-defined as a pre-determined number of sectors. In other words, Deiotte does not teach or suggest the claimed “area defined as a directory,” because Deiotte does not disclose, for example, pre-defining a number of sectors as a directory.

For at least these reasons, the applicant submits that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* anticipation of claim 1, as well as respective dependent claims. Thus, the applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

§Rejection under 35 USC 103(a) - Deiotte, Walker

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi in view of U.S. Patent 6,134,586 (Walker). The applicant traverses this rejection.

For at least the reasons above for claim 1, the applicant submits that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness for dependent claims 6 and 7.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert Downs Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Robert W. Downs # 48,222
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,271
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant